

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MARTIN 00068 151514Z

50

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04

PRS-01 SS-20 SAM-01 OPR-02 NIC-01 AGR-20 CU-04 DRC-01

OC-06 CCO-00 A-01 SY-10 USSS-00 SCSE-00 SCA-01 /217 W

----- 048599

O P 151500Z FEB 74

FM AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1480

COMCARIBSEAFRON IMMEDIATE UNN

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CURACAO PRIORITY

UNCLAS MARTINIQUE 0068

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PINS, ELAB, MB

SUBJECT: GENERAL STRIKE IN MARTINIQUE

REF: MARTINIQUE 0067

1. THURSDAY FEBRUARY 14 WAS THIRD DAY OF MARTINIQUE S GENERAL STRIKE. HEAVY RAINS INHIBITED MANY DEMONSTRATORS AND BY LATE AFTERNOON SHOPS IN FORT-DE-FRANCE BEGAN REOPENING THEIR DOORS.
 2. UNFORTUNATELY SITUATION IN RURAL AREAS HAD ALREADY BEGUN TO DEGENERATE, PARTICULARLY IN BANANA-GROWING AREAS. GROUPS OF STRIKERS ARMED WITH CLUBS AND CUTLASSES WERE MOVING FROM PLANTATION FORCING NONSTRIKERS TO LEAVE WORK.
 3. GENDARMES WERE OUT IN FORCE ATTEMPTING MAINTAIN RIGHT TO WORK. SEVERAL CLASHES TOOK PLACE. IN ONE OF THESE STRIKERS ARMED AS USUAL WITH CLUBS AND CUTLASSES ATTACKED PATROL OF
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GENDARMES NEAR TOWN OF LORRAIN. AFTER SEVERAL GENDARMES WERE

INJURED (ONE SERIOUSLY) THEY OPENED FIRE. ONE STRIKER WAS
KILLED ON SPOT. ANOTHER HAS APPARENTLY DIED SINCE AND SEVERAL
OTHERS WERE WOUNDED (ONE SERIOUSLY).

4. FRIDAY FEBRUARY 15 BEGAN QUIETLY FORT-DE-FRANCE. HOWEVER,
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HAVE BEEN RELEASED FROM CLASSES WHICH
USUALLY MEANS TROUBLE. MOREOVER, SITUATION IN RURAL AREAS
REMAINS AGITATED.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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30 JUN 2005

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